Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-15. (canceled)

16. (new) A method for supporting services of an IP-based video network, comprising:

registering a plurality of subscribers of the video network with a presence server, each subscriber registering via an IP-capable terminal;

logging onto the presence server when the terminal of a first subscriber is activated, the plurality of subscribers including the first subscriber;

storing information about a presence status of the first subscriber in the presence server as a result of the logging onto the presence server;

requesting presence information about at least a portion of the plurality of subscribers by the first subscriber via the terminal; and

providing presence information about the portion of subscribers to the first subscriber in response to the presence request.

17. (new) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

requesting further video-network-specific information about at least a portion of the plurality of subscribers; and

providing the further information to the first subscriber in response to the further request.

18. (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein the further information includes which of the portion of plurality of subscribers is viewing a specific film.

19. (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein the further information includes for each of the portion of plurality of subscribers a service used by the respective subscriber.

20.   (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein the further information includes for each of the portion of plurality of subscribers a file being seen by the respective subscriber.

21.   (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein a service is made available to the first subscriber based on information received about the portion of plurality of subscribers.

22.   (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein a subscriber of another IP-based network is enabled to log on to the presence server.

23.   (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein a subscriber of another IP-based network is enabled to log on to the presence server.

24.   (new) A presence server within a communication system, comprising:

a presence data of a plurality of subscribers of an IP-based video network; and

a request handler that receives by a first subscriber a request for the presence data of at least a portion of the plurality of subscribers, the plurality of subscribers includes the first subscriber,

wherein the presence data of the at least the portion of the plurality of subscribers is sent to the first subscriber in response to the request.

25.   (new) The presence server as claimed in claim 24,

further comprising an interface to a control server that controls the video services of the video network,

wherein the server can request information of a service used by a portion of the plurality of subscribers.

26.   (new) An IP-capable terminal of a video network that is operatively connected to a TV device of a first subscriber, the terminal comprising:

a subscriber request for a presence information of at least one other subscriber of the video network initiated by the first subscriber, the request sent to a central device of the video network; and

a subscriber presence information response received in response to the request,

wherein based on the response presence information is displayed on the TV device.

27.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 26, wherein the first subscriber initiates a communication service via the terminal to the subscriber that presence information has been received.

28.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 27, wherein the communication service is an instant messaging service.

29.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 26, wherein the central device is a presence server.

30.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 26, wherein the central device is a control server that controls the video network.

31.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 26, wherein the subscriber request is in accordance to an IP-based protocol.

32.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 31, wherein IP based protocol is a SIP protocol or wherein the IP based protocol is HTTP protocol.

33.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 26, further comprising an application that fetches from a presence server a presence data for at least one other subscriber and displays this on the TV device of the first subscriber, the fetch in response to a prompt by the first subscriber of the video network via an IP-based protocol.

34.   (new) The terminal as claimed in claim 26, wherein the terminal is a set-top box (STB).